THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Various steps taken are as under :—

(i) Use of more and more welded rails leading to reduction in number of fish plated joints.

(ii) The design has been finalized for trial for anti theft fish bolts and Elastic Rail Clip.

(iii) Burring of two fish bolts at joints, one on each rail, on the vulnerable sections.

(b) Yes, Sir. 32 Nos. Elastic Rail C ps were found missing at Km. 15/11-12 on up line between Shakurbasti and Nang oi stations. This was noticed by Railway keyman during his daily inspection.

(c) FIR No 3/2003 has been lodged on 22-2-03 with Government Railway Police/Delhi Kishanganj who are investigating the matter.

Shortage of wagons for wheat export

5221. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of wheat had been hampered during the last few months due to shortage of rail wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of wagons demanded by wheat exporting agencies during October - December 2002;

(d) the number of wagons supplied by railways, during the said period for export of wheat; and

(e) the measures taken by Railways to supply adequate number of wagons for wheat export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Concession against vacant seat to senior citizens

† 5222. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior citizen travelling on ordinary ticket in the train does not avail himself of the thirty per cent of concession in case of getting reservation against vacant seat;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.